

THE OVINGTON ORACLE

JANUARY

1/07

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Just in case you are wondering about the seasonal greetings on this our first issue of the new year, 2007, we are hoping to get the printers on line before they disappear in an alcoholic haze and our distribution team out of their warm beds in time to ensure this edition pops onto your doormat - midst the greetings cards - before you all get seriously festive over your well earned Christmas break.

THE ORACLE'S FUTURE ASSURED: -

Following on from last month's announcement that the production costs of the Oracle were set to rise considerably. The editors were gratified to receive two offers to fund these costs covering the next two years. This sponsorship, given anonymously, is extremely welcome and we thank those sponsors for their most generous contributions.

OVINGTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: -

This annual function was declared, for yet another year, a success both financially and socially. The organisers are to be congratulated on providing a large range of high quality merchandise, excellent food, marvellous Raffle and Tombola prizes, and most importantly a warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

It was good to see folk from many of the surrounding villages, also a goodly smattering of smiling faces from further afield. We have been asked once again to thank all those smashing people who not only contributed so generously but also turned out to help set up and run the various stalls.

Well-done team. Thanks to Santa too. (Soup was great. Ed.)

JANUARY DIARY

Jan 3 rd	Gardening Club
Jan 8 th	Bowls Club
Jan 15 th	Bowls Club
Jan 16 th	Ladies Group
Jan 17 th	Village Hall Com. Meeting
Jan 22 nd	Bowls Club
Jan 29 th	Bowls Club
Feb 21 st	Village Hall A.G.M.

GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting on Jan 3rd 2007 will be a slide show. "A walk with a camera through Thetford Forest" by Trevor Burlingham. Trevor is renowned for the high quality of his photography and intimate knowledge of the "Breck's".

Do come along and join us in the village hall at 7.45pm.

You may pay for a whole year's subscription for only £5, or come along to any meeting that takes your fancy for £1 per person. Further details from Jenny on 01760 723306 or Carol on 01760 440719.

Results of Ovington Bazaar held on 2nd December 2006

Books /Toys	47.15
Cakes	65.65
Hamper Competition	52.50
Christmas Tree Game	21.70
Christmas Gifts	73.15
Gifts	50.39
Plants	45.00
Raffle	172.00
Refreshments	53.31
Soup	66.23
Tombola	140.30
Donations	60.00
	847.38
Less general expenses	13.00
Total	<u>£834.38</u>

OVINGTON NAVY REPORT: -

Not many people know that there is an Ovington Navy! It is divided in to two parts. The Broads Division consists of fleet of mainly sailing boats owned by a certain family in the street, who have also been known to keep a sailing dinghy in the front garden in case of excessive global warming. The second is the Sea Division. Which this year has an increase in tonnage from 2 to 4 1/2 tons with the purchase of another boat - Woodlark. This is a Falmouth Pilot 6 tonner. Yes, confusing but they calculated the model on an obscure Thames Measurement - it looks more. This is a wooden boat built in 1963 in Falmouth and put in a barn until 1989, when it was fitted out at Newhaven and a modern Volvo engine was also installed. We actually collected it from Newhaven in April, with the help of one of the members of the Saham Navy (2 boats). While looking like conventional yacht (with pointed sails), it was marketed as a family motor sailor. It can sleep four or more if you stick them on deck. It is a very comfortable boat, especially when coming from the previous 16 footer with sitting room only. A two-burner cooker, with grill leads to the sort of cooking they would not dare show on TV. The hot tinned apricots, in scotch, are a speciality. Capable of crossing the Atlantic, it seems a safe boat but one that will require ongoing work - boats always do! It is moored on the River Orwell about a mile south of the bridge. To get to it we use a tender (tiny dinghy), powered by a 50-year-old outboard motor (Watton Salerooms). As far as I know the tender has been the only boat to be built in the village, but please correct me if this is not true. Woodlark is out of the water for the winter while we carry out the usual minor repairs. However, if you want a day out to Harwich and beyond let me know - crewmembers should be able to hand reef and steer, but we would settle for just making the tea!

Jeremy.

Did you also know that as well as having a formidable Naval force; Ovington is a centre of engineering excellence. Having more privately owned metal working machinery per head of population than areas such as Birmingham. Not a lot of people know that. (Then why is it that my washing machine is still busted after months of crying for help. Ed.)

BOWLS CLUB: -

These happy bunch of bowlers (England awaits!) continue to fill the village hall on Monday afternoons. They are always eager to welcome fresh blood, (especially if you have a new line in jokes), enjoy a bit of not too serious competition, and want to learn, or demonstrate how, to bowl a decent wood, then come on down.

On 12th Dec the bowlers foregathered at the Crown Hotel and indulged in their annual Christmas lunch, with all, and I mean ALL, the trimmings. A thoroughly good time was had by one and all, (no one wanted any tea that day!) A unanimous decision was taken afterwards not to have the next bowling session until 8/1/2007, it was felt that recovery time following such a feast was likely to extend well into the New Year.

So Date for diary then, 8th Jan 2007.

RAINFALL FOR NOVEMBER.

November 2006	87.5mm or 3.5"
November 2005	75mm or 3"
November 1996	100mm or 4"

Thanks Ted. Seems a pretty constant state of damp for November. Been a tad warmer this year though.

LADIES GROUP: -

The Ladies Group meeting on 16th January will be at the usual time of 7.45pm. The speaker has yet to be confirmed.

I would like to thank those ladies who have helped me as secretary to organise the various outings and gatherings - through times, which were sometimes difficult for me health wise.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas. Connie Springford. Sec.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Mesdames.

Grace & Rod have decided this year not to distribute traditional Christmas Cards to their friends and neighbours, but instead give an equivalent monetary donation to what we consider a worthy cause. Earlier this year a young lady of our acquaintance died from meningitis.

We feel that at this time of year it is appropriate to honour her memory by helping to finance research into the causes and, hopefully a cure for, a disease that seems to target younger members of our society. Please take this as our good wishes and season's greetings to you all.

Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.
Rod & Grace Rumsby

CHURCH NEWS

On December 17th, the Sunday afternoon service of nine lessons and carols was well attended, the whole congregation being in fine, roof lifting, voice for the traditional carols. The lessons were read clearly by members of the village bringing once again to life the Christmas message.

The service was led by Rev'd Julie Oddy. Everyone remarked on the Church decorations, which with the warm golden glow of candlelight made our little Church look so festive. Thanks to Pansy, Barry and Ann for their vision and skills in transforming the greenery, provided by Barry, into the decorative pieces so admired and appreciated by all.

Church Services for January

Sunday 7 th	No service
Sunday 14 th	9.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	3.00pm Own Arrangements
Sunday 28 th	9.00am Holy Communion

The Parochial Church Council, i.e. Pansy, wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Police Information: -

The Parish Council has received a new programme for the mobile police station. This has been posted on the Village Notice Board. Ovington is NOT on the list.

The nearest point is Saham Toney.

Competition: -

This might appeal to the younger members of our community, but is open to anyone.

Remember all those terrible jokes you get in Christmas Crackers, well we want to find the worst one ever. Submit your entries to any of the editorial team who will appoint an independent body to judge which submission is the worst. The winners name and the joke will be published in the next Ovington Oracle.

To contact the editors: -

Laura @ Sunnyside Farm	Tel. 869151
Christine @ Saham Road	Tel. 885848
Grace @ 31 The Street	Tel. 882246

Village Hall Bookings.
Michelle on 01953 884544

Deadline for February issue is 23rd January 2007. Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL: -

Another momentous occasion in the apolitical careers of Ovington's Parish Councillors as they gathered on the night of November 29th to discuss and set the budget for 2007 / 8.

The tension mounted as the minutes ticked by towards the bewitching half hour of 7.30pm.

The burning question on everybody's mind was would the public, fearing a wallet searing rise in next years council tax, storm the building demanding heads on plates. Or, would the stocks be reinstated on the village green in preparation for the public degradation or even physical mauling by the masses of the poor, and by now terrified, councillors.

As it turned out no one cared much for our councils potential for grabbing the pound from our pockets as not one member of Ovington's populace ventured out that night.

Careful deliberations followed and the budget for the year 2007/8 was set at a sum exceeding the previous years by £70.

This amount is divided between all the council tax payers in the village so hopefully our councillors will not need to venture forth only under cover of darkness.

Matters not subject to Parish Councils control however influence the total council tax, which you the public will be expected to pay. Policing for example, Breckland District Councils own budget, for another.

Other matters on the agenda included a suggestion that to alleviate verge damage in Church Road, part of it from the Dereham Road junction, should be made one way only. This matter was forwarded to the Highways Authority for their observations.

The next meeting is provisionally booked for the 14th February 2007. Unless there is some other more romantic diversion in the offing. Watch this space.

Note: -

Parish & District Council elections are due to be held in May 2007. It is important that smaller communities such as ours should maintain some control over what other bodies and central government, at times, tend to impose upon us. Therefore a council formed from local people with the interests of the community at heart is essential for villages like ours to maintain a degree of independence. Your Ovington needs you! Contact The Clerk to the Council NOW for information and guidance on how to become a councillor.

John Goode 01953 889342

Village hall A.G.M.

A bit of forewarning here about the impending A.G.M. The village hall will at that time be in a similar situation as the Parish Council, with an urgent need for volunteers to join it's Village Hall Management Committee. Several of the current team have served their time and in all probability will stand down at the A.G.M. The hall is an inestimable asset to the village and it would benefit no one if it were to close down, a distinct possibility if there is no one to run it. Please, at least think about it before the 21st Feb 2007

Village Hall Lottery

December - Winners

1st £20. No. 15 Molly Tucker
2nd £15 No. 19 Len Johnson
3rd £10 No. 22 Roy Abbs
4th £ 5 No. 26 Cyril Richmond
5th £ 5 No. 49 Nic Sproston
6th £ 4 No. 51 Maureen Cable

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in the 2006 lottery.

B/Fwd 2005	50p	Paid to members	£334.00
Members subscriptions	£660.00	Paid to Village Hall	£314.00
Interest	£ 6.37	Tax on interest	£ 1.27
	£666.87		£666.77
		C/Fwd to 2007	10p

My thanks to the 30 people who have already joined the lottery for next year. Don't forget the more members we have the larger the prizes, so don't delay; fill in the lottery form for 2007 printed below. Please complete and return to me at 31 The Street Ovington with your subscription of £12.00 as soon as possible.

Grace. (Ovington Village Hall Lottery Coordinator)

Membership Application Form for Ovington Lottery 2007

First Name(s)

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

Tel No.....

Membership is £12. Per Annum. Payment enclosed: Cash or Cheque and return to: -
Grace at 31 The Street Ovington by 5th January 2007.

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to "Ovington Village Hall"